

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10

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NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 DOEE-00 /161 W

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P 262223Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1613

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UNGA

SUBJECT: SSOD: CCD WESTERN GROUP MEETINGS ON MACHINERY,
MAY 23 AND 24, 1978

REF :STATE 124341

1. AS AGREED REFTEL, THE CCD WESTERN GROUP (CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK AND US) MET MAY 23 TO DISCUSS STRATEGY ON MACHINERY ISSUE. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE WESTERN GROUP, IN PARTICULAR AND ULTIMATELY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CCD TO REACH A COMMON VIEW ON THE QUESTION OF CHANGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY DEALING WITH DISARMAMENT ISSUES, FOCUSING ATTENTION PRIMARILY ON THOSE ISSUES DIRECTLY RELATED TO REFORM OF THE CCD. THREE PRIMARY CONCERNS FOR THE CCD WERE IDENTIFIED : (1) STRENGTHENING LINK BETWEEN THE CCD AND THE UN WITHOUT SUBORDINATING CCD TO UN; (2) MAINTENANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS; AND (3) MAINTENANCE OF CCD AUTONOMY.

2. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION
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IN THE CCD OR ANY MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING FORUM, US REP (FISHER) STATED THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT TOLERATE SIMPLY REFORM OF THE CCD, BUT SOUGHT ITS TOTAL DISSOLUTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FRENCH APPEARED TO ATTACH SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE TO THE DEMISE OF THE CCD, BUT ADDED THAT THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH PROPOSALS AND THAT THE FRENCH WERE NOT LOBBYING

VERY ACTIVELY TO OBTAIN SUCH SUPPORT. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE FRENCH WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ANY MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY, WHETHER A REFORMED CCD OR AN ENTIRELY NEW NEGOTIATING BODY, IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE DUTCH (MEERBURG), CANADIANS (JAY), AND ITALIANS (VINCI) WERE NOT QUITE AS PESSIMISTIC REGARDING POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION, HOWEVER, AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE FRENCH WERE SIMPLY LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT LOSING FACE IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS FRENCH POSITION.

3. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE WESTERN GROUP SHOULD BEGIN DISCUSSING THE SPECIFICS WHICH EACH OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE MACHINERY SECTION OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTION (A/S - 10/1) WOULD ENTAIL, SO AS TO DETERMINE WHICH PROPOSALS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WESTERN GROUP AND NOT HAMPER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT ANY DECISION REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF THE CURRENT CO-CHAIRMANSHIP SYSTEM IN THE CCD WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACCEPTABLE PACKAGE OF REFORMS TO THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR DISARMAMENT.

4. AT WORKING LEVEL WESTERN GROUP MEETING, MAY 24, IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT WESTERN GROUP WORK ON MACHINERY WOULD NOT
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INCLUDE DRAFTING OF SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON MACHINERY SECTION, BUT ONLY DISCUSSIONS TO DETERMINE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS. FOUR GENERAL ISSUES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE FUTURE OF THE CCD WERE IDENTIFIED :

A. SHOULD THE CCD OR A POSSIBLE NEW MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY BE MADE A PART OF THE UN SYSTEM?

ALL AGREED THAT THE LEGAL RESTRICTIONS OF SUCH A MOVE NEEDED TO BE INVESTIGATED BEFORE ANY WESTERN GROUP DECISION ON THIS QUESTION IS MADE.

B. WHAT SHOULD THE LINK BE BETWEEN THE CCD AND THE UN? SHOULD THE CCD SUBMIT INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE UN MORE FREQUENTLY? SHOULD THE UN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIXING THE AGENDA OF THE CCD? SHOULD THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNSYG BE ABLE TO PRESENT PROPOSALS TO THE CCD ON BEHALF OF THE UN?

IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE UN SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FIX THE CCD'S AGENDA BECAUSE SUCH A MOVE WOULD DIMINISH CCD AUTONOMY. THE ITALIANS WERE INTERESTED IN GAINING

SUPPORT FOR THEIR PROPOSAL THAT THE CCD SUBMIT INTERIM REPORTS MORE FREQUENTLY, BUT THE REST OF THE WESTERN GROUP WAS UNWILLING TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SUCH SUPPORT BELIEVING THAT CCD REPORTING TO THE UN, AS REVISED IN APRIL 1977, WAS ADEQUATE. THE US SAID THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNSYG TO PRESENT PROPOSALS IN THE CCD ON BEHALF OF THE UN WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON. SHE POINTED OUT US CONCERNS THAT, IN LIGHT OF SOVIET CONTROL OF UN DISARMAMENT SECTION, THE UNSYG REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE PUTTING FORWARD SOVIET PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD BE GIVEN ADDED WEIGHT OF A UN STAMP OF APPROVAL. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THIS QUESTION

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WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED FURTHER.

C. SHOULD THE CCD EXPAND MEMBERSHIP? IF SO, SHOULD SEATS BE PERMANENT OR ROTATING? SHOULD OBSERVER STATUS BE CREATED?

ALL AGREED THAT EXPANSION WAS INEVITABLE AND PREFERRED ACCEPTING 4 TO 5 NEW PERMANENT MEMBERS, BUT IN ANY CASE NOT TO EXCEED 40 MEMBERS IN ANY MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING BODY. THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING ROTATING SEATS WAS NOT SUPPORTED, WITH ALL AGREEING THAT ROTATION OF MEMBERS, EVEN JUST A FEW, WOULD NOT PROVIDE CONTINUITY IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THE QUESTION OF CREATING OBSERVER STATUS WAS DEFERRED TO A LATER MEETING.

D. SHOULD THE CCD CO-CHAIRMANSHIP BE ABOLISHED AND REPLACED BY A BUREAU? A CHAIRMAN APPOINTED BY THE UNSYG AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CCD?

IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP COULD BE GIVEN UP AS A "LAST CARD" INDUCEMENT FOR SSOD DELS TO
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REACH AGREEMENT ON MACHINERY LANGUAGE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. REFERENCE LEANED TOWARD A SINGLE CHAIRMAN RATHER THAN A BUREAU. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED FURTHER FOLLOWING RESOLUTION OF OTHER ISSUES.

IN ADDITION TO ISSUES ABOVE, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT WORK ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ON DISARMAMENT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING FORUM AND THAT NO STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

5. WESTERN GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN TO DISCUSS MACHINERY ISSUES AFTERNOON, MAY 25. YOUNG

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